

REMARKS

In response to the Communication mailed January 13, 2003, Applicants have presented amended versions of claims 1, 3 and 4 that contain language (i.e., sequence designations) introduced by way of amendment filed December 2, 2000. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the conflict between the sets of claims has been corrected by way of this submission.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

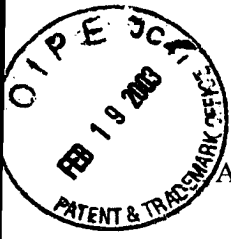
If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: February 11, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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FEB 20 2003

Application No.: 09/431,546

Docket No.: INTERLINK 3.0-003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for reducing the extent of protease degradation of a protein applied to or produced by a plant comprising administering to the plant or a part thereof a peptide comprising indolicidin, Arg-Arg-Trp-Pro-Trp-Trp-Pro-Trp-Lys-Trp-Pro-Leu-Ile (SEQ ID NO:4) (Rev4), or a functional equivalent of indolicidin or Rev4, wherein said functional equivalent possesses protease inhibitory activity comprising ability to increase resistance of the protein to degradation or inactivation by proteases.

3. AMENDED The method of claim 1 wherein said peptide comprises a functional equivalent of Rev4 which is Ser-Arg-Arg-Trp-Pro-Trp-Trp-Pro-Trp-Lys-Trp-Pro-Leu-Ile (Ser-Rev4-OH) (SEQ ID NO:5).

4. AMENDED The method of claim 1 wherein said peptide comprises a functional equivalent of Rev4 which is Arg-Arg-Trp-Pro-Trp-Trp-Pro-Trp-Lys-Trp-Pro-Leu-Ile-Gly-Gly-Gly-Tyr-Asp-Pro-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Pro-Pro-Pro (SEQ ID NO:6) (Rev4-C-Fusion).